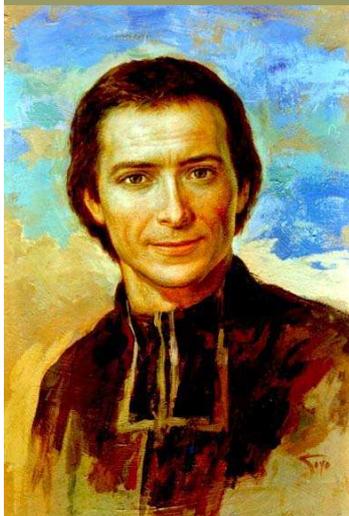


Volume 16

June 2013



PROVINCE OF SOUTH ASIA

Marist News Letter

Provincial Writes

Dear Brothers and Friends,

On the occasion of the feast of our Founder Br. Emili Turu, our Superior General in his traditional message spoke to us about the beatification of the 68 Marist Brothers and their companions including two laymen who were martyred in Spain between 1936 and 1939. The beatification celebration will take place in Tarragona in Spain on Sunday 13 October 2013 coinciding with the closing of the Year of Faith. Bro. Emili in his "Letter of the Superior General" dated June 06 2013 addressed to "Marists of Champagnat" gives a simple but comprehensive description of the martyrs who will be beatified. The letter is entitled "Burning embers, witnesses to the Faith". He invites and challenges us to live our faith in today's context.

"Our martyrs paid a heavy price for being faithful to their commitment. They encourage us to *give our lives* and to *be witnesses of the experience of God* and of the marvelous *gift of community*. Humbly, discretely, we will contribute to

molding this Church with the Marian face of which we dream".

It is interesting to note what he has italicized in the above lines, perhaps suggesting how we could witness our faith today. Bro. Emili concludes his letter asking two very important questions. "*What have you done with the gift of faith? What do your actions say?*" Interesting questions loaded with food for thought, reflection and action!!! I hope you will enjoy reading this inspiring letter.

It is worth noting what Fr. Champagnat earnestly requested from the Brothers at various times. In one of his letters he says "Remember that you are Brothers, that Mary is your common mother, that you are called to the same inheritance, which is heaven. Love one another then, as Jesus Christ loves you and Mary, your mother, loves you".

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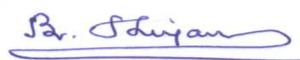
If we can love our Brothers as Christ and Mary love us, it seems to me that there is nothing more that we could do to profess our faith. But the question is how do we do it in our communities on day-to-day basis? I thought this is worth exploring.

During my recent visit to the Province of USA I was exposed to many rich experiences of the life and mission of our Brothers there. One of the touching moments for me was to experience how the Brothers were taking care of one another. I was blessed to be in the Provincial House Community comprising of the Bros. Ben, Roy, John, Richard and Kevin. They were brothers with many responsibilities but giving their priority - time and energy - to their community living; taking turns in animating prayers, cooking the evening meal, spending quite a lot of time together enjoying the company of one another at dining table. These were the "little virtues" Bro. Sean Sammon mentions in his book - *Marvelous Companions* that promote healthy community living. I was challenged!

Brothers, we are coming closer to our Provincial Chapter. I would like to remind you about our commitment to it. "Provincial Chapter is an assembly which represents the entire Province and expresses the participation of all the Brothers in the governing of the Province"(Constitutions Art. 151). This will be a wonderful opportunity and grace-moment for all of us to get involved in designing our future in the Province. In addition to our daily prayer in

preparation for the Chapter I would like to encourage you to continue our conversations in the communities about our Province and the directions that the Province should take for the next three years. This is our time to make a difference in the Province being very attentive to the signs of the times we are witnessing in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It will be unfortunate if we do not grab the moment to be inspired by God to respond to what God wants us to do in our Province with the resources available to us. Among many topics we could base our conversations on, perhaps the calls of the church for us and the directives of the General Chapter might provide some insights if we are in tune with God to be attentive to what God must be telling us at this time of the history of our Province.

In conclusion, inspired by our martyrs - brothers and lay - let us find ways to work in collaboration with our lay partners. It is my understanding that there are many lay people, young and old, who wish to live their lives as Marists. They do need our invitation, support, recognition, and acceptance in order to be our collaborators. We all need to find some concrete ways to enable them to work in communion with us.



Bro. Shanthi Liyanage, Provincial

From the general Administration in Rome:

*"In application of article 137.4.4 of our Constitutions and Statutes, Brother Superior General with his Council appoint an International Commission which will launch and accompany the process of revision of the Constitutions, for 3 years, starting on 1st November 2013: **Brothers Nicholas Fernando (South Asia)**, Diogène Musine (PACE), John Hazelman (New Zealand), Patrick McNamara (USA), Deivis Fischer (RGS), Juan Ignacio Fuentes (Cruz del Sur) and Antonio Leal (Compostela). Bros. Emili Turú, Joseph Mckee and Antonio Leal will co-ordinate the commission." **Congratulations Nicholas!***

Sri Lanka

Kalpitiya

We had a volunteer, an eighteen year old youth, Liam Sharpe from Australia. He stayed with us for about two months and taught English to our students. We also took him to visit some of our ancient cities of



historical importance which he enjoyed much.

Our mission in Kalpitiya is progressing ahead with the grace of God. The support we receive for the success of the mission is much appreciated.



Life in the North (Puloppalai)

Life in the North is tough and challenging, yet at the same time it brings joy and satisfaction of venturing in to 'New Land' to bring Christ's love to the people, especially to the children and youth. With the bare minimum essentials, we by our presence try to make a difference in the life of the people.

Nicholas and I with our aspirant Dulaj meet many young people who yearn for a successful future. Our purpose is to find ways to support them and help them to find meaning in life. At the same time we are

challenged to attract some of these young men to our way of life as Marists.

It has been a privilege for me to come with Dulaj to the North. I help Dulaj to improve his knowledge of English by taking classes in the mornings. Nicholas is seeing to the aspect of formation. At the same time Dulaj and I have started learning Tamil so that we can communicate with the local people. It is a big challenge but is also an opportunity for growth.

Bro. Farancis



Annual Meeting in Sri Lanka

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Marist Asia Conference (MAC) took place at the beginning of April. MAC is the regional conference of the leaders of Asia. It consists of the two Provincials – Brothers Shanthi Liyanage (South Asia) and Manny de Leon (East Asia) - their deputies Mervyn Perera and Robert Teoh. The Superior of Asia Mission Ad Gentes Sector (AMAG) – Luis Sobrado - is also a member. His deputy – Juan Castro – was not available for this meeting so Michael Potter stood in for Juan.

Peter Rodney – Rector of Marist Asia Pacific Center (MAPAC) – completes the Conference membership.

This year the Province of South Asia hosted the meeting in Sri Lanka. It was a two day meeting devoted to building closer collaboration. Not only among the Administrative Units (AUs) of the region, but also between the region and the animation initiatives of the General Council and its various Secretariats.



Founder's day celebrated

On Saturday the 8th of June the Brothers, Lay Marists and students celebrated the feast of St. Marcellin. Rev. Fathers Sreenath and Nihal Rodrigo officiated the Mass.

The whole programme was organized by the Lay Marists. Mr. Chanka Symbalpitiya the one who is in charge of the Champagnat youth Club of Maris Stella College got some banners made on the life of the founder and they were hung inside the chapel. Rev. Father Sreenath, an old boy of Maris Stella

College gave the homily and appreciated the yeomen services of all the past Brothers. He was grateful to the balanced education imparted by them and the contribution they made for the development of the school.

After the mass Brother Sunanda addressed the crowd on behalf Brother Provincial and thanked all for taking part in the Eucharistic Service.

The celebrations concluded with lunch served for all present.



Back To School

The old boys association of Maris Stella College organized an interesting program on 2nd June 2013. It was called 'Back To School'. The purpose of it was to bring back past memories. Around 1500 past students participated in the function. They all came clad in blue shorts and white short sleeved shirts. Some carried a school bag too. As the bell rang they all assembled in front of the classes allotted to them. At the second bell they all stood at attention in silence. It was really a moving sight. At the 3rd bell they all marched to the auditorium for the celebration of the Eucharist.



The mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Milroy Fernando, a former member of the staff. Fr. Darrell Coogne another distinguished old boy gave a sermon that touched everyone's heart.

After the mass they all went back to the classrooms assigned to them with their former teachers. There were lively exchanges of memories. Then the bell rang to terminate the activities in the College premises.

Then they proceeded to Kadirana cricket grounds for the fellowship followed by lunch.

Maris Stella in the lime light

Under 20, 18, 16, 14, 13, and 12 relay teams of Maris Stella College took part in the all Island Relay Carnival held at Mahinda Rajapaksa Grounds in Homagama. They became over all champions defeating Joseph Vaz college and Walala Maha Vidyalya. Under 14 relay team came first in 4x100 and 4x400 while the under 16 team came first in 4x100.



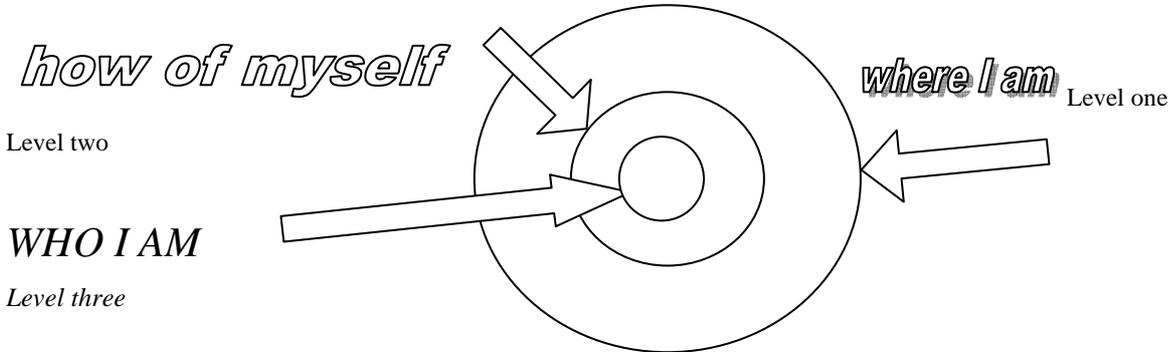
Our Under 19 Volley Ball Team to win the Championship at the Western Province Volleyball tournament held in Hanwella.

The Under 17 Basket Ball Team did extremely well to win the All Island Championship.

Let us congratulate our young lads and salute the trainers.

Province Recollection

The Province recollection of the Brothers in Sri Lanka was held at Emard Retreat House, Hanwella from 10th Friday to 12th Sunday of May. Rev. Sister Canice was the facilitator of the programme. All most all the Brothers gathered there by Friday evening. Soon after dinner Sr. Canice with an introduction, oriented the brothers to the theme and the dynamics of the recollection.



When the sessions began on Saturday Sr. Canice emphasized the importance of getting to the core of ourselves. We are formed from within where God resides. Our spirituality is what leads us ahead. Most of our activities are restricted to level one and two. But in level three we encounter God and experience his image and likeness. That will provide us energy to go ahead. There were 4 sessions and we were led into group work in order to drive home the basic facts.

Brother Roshan conducted a session on Sunday with regard to Provincial chapter preparation. Then Brother Shanthy himself made all of us aware of what is taking place in the province. On Sunday With Lunch the programme ended.

St. Joseph's college Nugegoda

St. Joseph's College, Nugegoda, was established in 1953. Its founder was Rev. Fr. Charles Rayman O.M.I. In 1985 it was handed over to the Marist Brothers by the Archbishop Emeritus His Grace Nicholas Marcus Fernando. Its pioneer principal was Rev. Br. Gereld Peiris. Several eminent Marist Brothers headed the school. At present it is in the able hands of Rev. Bro. Chintane Nonis. After he assumed office several new ventures were launched. Among them were the new classrooms

the primary students in comfortable classrooms.

On 6th of May 2013 the School celebrated its diamond jubilee. Large crowds of past students, present students, parents and teachers attended the celebration. His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith celebrated the Holy Mass. In his sermon he paid tribute to the Marist Brothers who have rendered a yeoman's service to the youth of the area.

The jubilee celebration came to a close with the singing of the jubilee hymn.



1st Meeting of the Lay Marists and Brothers Commission in Asia

The first gathering of the Lay Marists and Brothers Commission in Asia was held on May 7-8, 2013 at Champagnat Youth Center, Port Dickson, Malaysia. Br. Joe Peiris and Ajith Perera of South Asia, Br. John Tan, Elma Rafil and Agnes Reyes of East Asia, and Br. Ismael Valls of Ad Gentes Sector attended the gathering. Agnes was elected chairperson of the Commission for 2013-2015. The presence of the chair of the Marist Asia Conference, Br. Shanthi Linayage provided a strong support and encouragement to the Commission. Tony Clarke, the co-director of the Secretariat of the Laity, was very much appreciated for his

guidance and valuable input. The Commission was blessed to have the presence of the newly appointed Provincial of East Asia, Br. Robert Teoh, who was available to address the Commission's needs during the meeting. Gratitude was expressed to East Asia Province for hosting the said event.



A life-giving experience! Manziana Mid-life Renewal Program

From 10 different countries, we, 10 participants to Mid-life Renewal Program started



journey together at Manziana on the 27th January 2013. As we prepare ourselves to return to our various countries, we recall with joy and gratitude what has been our experience of living together during 4 and half months.

We go back to our respective communities with a strong desire to be Brothers with an apron as our uniform, deeply convinced that we are God's instruments in our different ministries. Short but indispensable, our journey has been a revitalization of our vocation. "

Bro. Arthur Ganiza.

Lay Marist International Formation Meeting

The Marist Lay International Formation Meeting was held from 28th of May to 02nd of June 2013 at Les Avellanes in Spain was attended by the Brothers and Lay Marists from the Europe, America, Australia, Africa, Oceania and Asia. The main objectives of this formation programme were to deepen and strengthen the participants in the Marist vocation and charism, becoming aware of the strength of the 21st General Chapter and setting standards for a way to

conversions and renewal, analysing the issues of belonging and determining some guidelines for the future.



India

MAY DAY SPECIAL PROGRAMME REPORT

The Theme: " BRING OUT YOUR BEST"

70 Families participated in this programme, including 72 Adults and 72 Children .

Mimic Vijay and his Companions gave a Performance. Children took part in this programme,

Baby Rukamani's Birthday too was celebrated during this meeting

Prize too were distributed among the students who obtained high mark in 12th year Exam

Bro. Alex (from Kolkotha) was the special guest of this meeting.

Mrs. Deepa Balakrishnan welcomed the group and Mrs. Saroja proposed the vote of thanks.



Renewal of Vows

This is the photo of three Brothers who renewed their vows on 16th March Saturday. Fr. Stanly sj celebrated the mass. Brother Shanthi, Provincial, received the

vows. All the Indian Brothers gathered and witnessed the ceremony. Before the mass all the Brothers assembled for a meeting with Br. Shanthi which lasted for about an hour.



Recollection

On 16th and 17th of February 2013 the Brothers did their recollection at " Sangaman ". It is a place for natural cure, run by Fr. Jacop a capuchin. Talk on natural cure and food habits were taught. During the two days we were given only natural food without cooking, fruits, vegetable and leaves. we enjoyed it very much.

Mangamanuthu School

When Brother Shanthi visited Mangamanuthu School the Xth std children were preparing for their public exams. The Brothers and the Headmaster requested

Bro. Shanthi to pray over the children and bless them asking God's grace for the success of their exam. We all prayed for them.



News about the newly constructed building at P.U.

At the Higher Secondary section the computer lab and the new toilet blocks for both boys and girls were completed.

Primary multipurpose building (red colour) was completed and it was inaugurated on 15th of March by Brother Shanthi, Provincial and the Parish priest Fr. James blessed the building. On the same day the Primary school celebrated the school's Annual day with lots of cultural programs.



Other News

The 12th std students and the 10th std children who appeared for their public exam obtained successful results.

Brother Albert Antonysamy has scored high marks for his first year training exam. Jiji has got a Gold medal for his French exam at St. Joseph's Collage (B.A 2ndyear)

We had a vocation camp from 5th to 8th April. Three boys attended the camp. others could not attend due to some urgent work. They might come later. It was well organized by Bro. Saul and his team.

Jude predeep has gone to North Culcutta for few weeks to Join Malangmei to go on a

vocation tour in North at Manipour. We hope they will be successful.

Brother Mario Meuti , FMSI Director, Rome, visited us from 6th to 10th April and went to all our mission places to see the work done by our Brothers. He also witnessed the Rainbow meeting on 7th of April. Though it was hot, around 107 degree Fahrenheit he managed well and went round to all the places.

On 9th April Brother Darwin Bosco renewed his vows. Fr. Reynold George celebrated the mass, Bro. Chinna received the vows. Bro. Mario and Trichy community Brothers participated in this simple ceremony.

Operation Rainbow

On Sunday, June 23, Marcellin Trust - Operation Rainbow had organized an Education Support programme to children affected by HIV/AIDS at the Marcellin Trust Center at Uyyakondan Thirumalai, Trichy, Rev. BroChinnappan, Chairman of Marcellin Trust, presided over the function and distributed school uniforms, study materials and school fees to about 154 school and College students.

A group of staff and students from St. Paul's and St. John's R C Academy, Dundee, Scotland participated in the programme and displayed their culture through singing and dancing. As a part of cultural exchange, students from Kalai Kaviri College of Fine

Arts performed classical dance Barathanatiam and Mr. Vijiy and Companion staged a magic show mimicry. More than 250 (Adult 95 and Children 155) attended the program. Lunch was provided to all the participants.

Project Co-Ordinator gave a free hearing Aid to Mr. Kalaiyaran.

Welcome address was delivered by T. Joseph Christuraja (Project-Co-Ordinator) and the Vote of thanks was proposed by Bro. Raj Kumar

Report by
Joseph Christuraja.



News from West Bengal:

We are all doing well here. We had a vocation camp at the end of May 2013 which went on for a whole week. There were 10 boys at the camp and we selected three for this year for the candidacy program. 3 are doing their college studies in their second year and they hope to join us next year after completing their degree studies. Three more who are doing class 12 this year, plan to join us next year.

On July 6th we are planning to celebrate our Founder's day (We postponed it due to our children's summer vacation..) When the children return to hostel we will have the celebrations with them. The three new candidates too will join us.

The very next day they will move with Brs. Jose Maria and Malangmei to Kolkata to the new house which we hired for a year for candidate program. It is an expensive program but it will help us in many ways. Br. Malangmei will start his B.Ed. Program on July 1st. Let us ask God's blessings on our mission.

Brother
Alex.



Pakistan

Champagnat Day Celebrations

The students, the staff and the workers of Sargodha Catholic High School, celebrated Champagnat day, the Feast of the Visitation and the end of the first term. To mark the day, the students came in colourful dresses, We had a well organized Eucharistic

Celebrations and after that students had their parties. There was music, dance and fun. It was a beautiful day filled with celebrations. The students were very happy and I am sure Champagnat would have been glad as well, seeing them happy.



An excerpt from
[The Road To Happiness](#)
by Mac Anderson and BJ Gallagher

A thankful spirit is a healthy spirit. As the twists and turns of life lead to feelings of being out of control, sometimes our attitude is all that we have control over...the following reflection may help you develop a thankful attitude. Sometimes life is all about how we look at it!



I am thankful for...the mess to clean after • a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

the taxes I • pay because it means that I am employed.

a lawn that needs mowing, • windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the • sunshine.
the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it • means I am capable of walking.

all of the complaining I hear about our • government because it means we have freedom of speech.

my huge heating • bill because it means I am warm.

the lady behind me in church who sings • off key because it means that I can hear.

the alarm that goes off early • in the morning hours because it means that I am alive.

the piles of • laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.

weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it • means I have been productive.

We wish you a Happy Birthday!!

July

- 15 Gerard Peiris
- 11 Paulraj Anthony
- 27 Godfrey Perera

August

- 05 Lazar Sebastian
- 22 Hubert Wettasing
- 23 Michael De Waas
- 25 Sumith Senadeera
- 31 Chamara Hettiar

September

- 04 Remigious Fdo
- 08 Biniamin Masih
- 13 Lawrence Perera

Special events for July and August

- * July 6th - Community Leaders Meeting
- * July 20th to 22nd - Provincial Council Meeting—india
- * 5th August - Bursars Meeting
- * 10th to 16th August - Retreat
- * August 19th to 23rd - Provincial Chapter

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Prayers are requested for

- * Bro. Mervyn Perera convalescing at Marist Novitiate.
- * Parents of Bro. Anthony Francis.

The souls of

- * Mrs. M. Rosamariya Perera mother of Bro. Victor Fernando.
- * Mrs. W. Mary Vinifed Fernando mother of Mrs. Nalani Fernando, Dep. Principal, Maris Stella College.
- * Master Sangeeth Madusanka Perera Student Marist Stella College.
- * Mrs. Sujatha, one of our clients at Operation Rainbow

“Blessed are those who die in the Lord, for their good deeds go along with them”.